



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

9 September 2013

Jennifer Jessup
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce
Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Jessup:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the MMC) has reviewed the Department of Commerce's notice (78 Fed. Reg. 54867) regarding information collection requirements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA), specifically the Level A Stranding and Rehabilitation Disposition Data Sheet. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires certain types of information regarding marine mammal strandings, primarily to determine the species, numbers, decomposition state of carcasses, and causes of illnesses and deaths by region. That information is especially important when documenting unusual mortality events, such as the bottlenose dolphin event that is occurring along the east coast of the United States. NMFS also requires each rehabilitation facility to monitor and track individual marine mammals held at authorized facilities. Data are submitted by NMFS-authorized stranding network participants.

Collection of the information is necessary to ensure the protection and conservation of marine mammal populations, document emerging illnesses and disease, track individual marine mammals undergoing rehabilitation, and ensure that the goals of the MMPA are met. Therefore, the MMC supports the Department's request to collect the required information.

Please contact me if you need additional information to support the Department's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Cc. Mr. P. Michael Payne